

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10 are all the claims pending in the application, claims 8, 9, 11, and 12 having been cancelled as indicated herein. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-7 and 10 are allowed. Claims 8, 9, 11 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with a written description requirement. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Shima et al. (US Patent No. 6,456,714).

The rejected claims are deleted and, thus, Applicant believes that this case is now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U. S. Application No. 09/624,348

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q60039

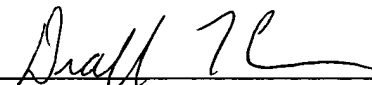
The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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